

## Claims

- 1) Expression cassette, characterized in that said expression cassette comprises a promoter obtainable from the region between the stop codon of the *yjaF* gene and the start codon of the *rpsF* gene as found on the *Bacillus subtilis* genome.
- 2) Expression cassette, characterized in that said expression cassette comprises a promoter having the following characteristics
- a) a nucleotide sequence TATAAT, preferably GTATAAT or TATAATA at the -10 site,
- b) a nucleotide sequence TTGTAA, preferably GTTGTAA or TTGTAAA at the -35 site,
- c) a spacer of 17 +/- 2 nucleotides, preferably 17 +/- 1 nucleotides, more preferably 17 nucleotides.
- 3) Expression cassette according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO 1.
- 4) Expression cassette according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO 2.
- 5) Expression cassette according to claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO 3.
- 6) Expression cassette according to claims 1-5, characterized in that the promoter is preceded by a stretch of nucleotides having at least 1, preferably 2, more preferably even three AT-rich regions upstream of the -35 region.
- 7) Expression cassette according to claim 6, characterized in that said stretch of nucleotides having AT-rich regions upstream of the -35 region comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO 4, preferably in SEQ ID NO 5, more preferably in SEQ ID NO 6.
- 8) Expression cassette, characterized in that said expression cassette comprises a promoter having a consensus sequence

AAAANNNNNNTTTT $X_n$ AAAANNNNNNTTTT, wherein  $10 < n < 150$

9) Expression cassette according to claim 8, characterized in that the promoter comprises the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 7, preferably in SEQ ID NO: 8, more preferably in SEQ ID NO: 9.

10) Recombinant plasmid characterized in that said plasmid comprises an expression cassette according to claims 1-9.

11) Bacterial host cell comprising an expression cassette according to claims 1-9 or a recombinant plasmid according to claim 10.

12) Use of a promoter as described in claims 1-9 in an expression cassette.

13) Use of a promoter as described in claims 1-9 in a heterologous expression system.

14) Method for the heterologous expression of a gene, characterized in that said method comprises the construction of an expression cassette according to claims 1-9.

15) Method for the heterologous expression of a gene, characterized in that said method comprises the transfection of a bacterium with an expression cassette according to claims 1-9.